

Thirty-seven Cent Gowns For the Graduate



MURILLO PORTRAIT

The high cost of living has been attributed to many things, but at this time of the year salaried men who have a girl graduate in the family, have a lot to say about the high cost of graduation. The sweet girl graduate looks fine in her gowns when she steps up on the platform to receive her diploma. If she comes from a family of means she has a beautiful gown as a matter of course.

If she happens to come from the home of a salaried man the gown usually spells self denial and sacrifice on the part of the parents who want their daughter to shine with the rest of them. The average family is able to get along with the ordinary expenses. It is the extraordinary expenses that keep them in trouble.

The gowns for the graduate are extraordinary expenses. The graduation dress is a problem in many homes of the poor where the bright children of the family successively are graduated from the grades, the high school and college.

Mrs. Anna Sneed Cairns, president of Forest Park University, a school for girls, solved the problem of dress when early in the spring the girls of the senior class prepared for the festivities beginning with the big May Day celebration. "We'll start the programme May Day in gowns costing 37 cents," Mrs. Cairns announced.

"That'll be tacky," said the girls. "That will be beautiful," answered Mrs. Cairns.

"Oh, I wouldn't be seen in such a thing," one of the girls from a family of high social standing announced.

"Oh, yes," said the president, and the revolution was over.

When May Day arrived the annual festivities were carried out as usual and visitors said never before had they seen the graduates so beautiful. All the other festivities of the season were carried out on the same plan and in every instance the verdict of the visitors was that the dresses were the most beautiful ever seen.

Then Mrs. Cairns told the secret of their beauty. "They cost only 37 cents," said she, "and the girls made them themselves."

The originality of the girls in getting up their own costumes was remarkable. Instead of following the modes of the day they dressed in the classic garb they had seen pictures of in their histories and they dressed as the maids of old had dressed at their May Day fetes. The fashions of today were followed only as the girls themselves thought them beautiful. The 37-cent gowns were just for the time and the cost was so small it mattered not if they would not be accepted at a ball-room affair afterward.

The spirit of democracy was instilled in the girls at the school by their simplicity of dress.

Fashions originate in Europe chiefly. We dress in a certain way because they of Paris dress that way. At the annual horse show of Paris the fashions of the world are made for the next few months and the dictates sent out at that horse show are obeyed all over the world with only slight variations. When they wear the bustle gown in Washington it is worn at the same time in Buenos Ayres, Liverpool and Melbourne. Americans dress differently from other people only in a slight degree. We look more like Europeans than different types of Montellans look like each other. Our dress is the greatest point of resemblance.

DRESS OF PARISIAN MADE TO FIT TYPES.
The reason our new dresses look so peculiar when they first appear

on the street at the opening of any season is that they are not made to fit the type. We dress as the others dress. We put on what the fashion arbiters give us. We have little independence in dress. In Paris they dress at the horse show according to their own type. A dress, which might look well on one Parisian does not necessarily look well on a million other women. When one Paris woman wears a certain type of dress, which she has designed herself in order to make a good appearance at the big society event of the French capital, the designers steal her originality and put it in dresses all over the world.

She may have made a stunning appearance in the dress, but her imitators may look like apes. Mrs. Cairns believes the designing of her own gown by each girl caused each one to pick the things that looked the best on herself. She, of course, gave suggestions as to what should be worn, but left the making and cut to the final decision of the girl herself. In Paris when deciding on a gown for some grand lady they hunt through the ages for something striking. They look over the classic dress of the ancients and of the middle ages as well as the period just before the fall of the empire. The girls at the school in making their own dresses were given the liberty of the designers. Naturally they did not strive to attain any of the daring costumes seen in Paris. They did dress, however,

ful costumes depicting the ancients. Greek emperors, merry men, milkmaids, chimney sweeps, Morris dancers, kings and queens, dragons, saints, bandits, ghosts, wandering knights, fairies, enchanted maidens—a horde of them; and everyone a reveler—danced on the May Pole green during the big feature of the fete.

The spectators, packed ten deep around the squared green, saw a whirling mass of color just after the flower-decked central May Pole had been set up. A large orchestra played the May Pole dance, which would make anyone want to get his feet moving.

At each corner of the green, too, were smaller May Poles, with long

their lambs, and a crowd of nondescript May Day revelers. The latter were afterward to do duty as programme sellers.

Of the nine plays, presented in various parts of the college grounds, two were new this time—"Campaspe" and "Noah's Flood."

"Campaspe" led all the rest in beauty and was regarded as a triumph for the college. The play deals with an incident in the life of Alexander the Great. It was presented in the Library Cloister, and during the three presentations every spot in the cloister was crowded.

Alexander, at the hour of his greatest triumph, with no more of the world left to conquest, loves a



UPPER left—Mrs. Anna Sneed Cairns. Other views show seniors of Forest Park University and attendants in May Day festivities.

streamers, while young girls, dressed as boys and girls, wound the many colored ribbons around and around.

Here would come St. George, followed close by the Dragon; there a milkmaid danced with a Merry Man of Robin Hood's troop. Will Scarlet danced with Alexander the Great was followed by Queen Tithania, dancing with King Richard the First. The flashing colors, red and gold, dull green, brown, pink, yellow—the rainbow was well represented.



ever, to make themselves look happy and beautiful as they really are.

The May Day fetes at women's colleges for women probably reaches its greatest height for splendor at Bryn Mawr where this year 500 girl students took part, attracting to the festivities former President W. H. Taft and others.

The celebrators there were in striking contrast to the seniors of Forest Park University. The Bryn Mawr girls were dressed in wonder-

resented—made the scene kaleidoscopic.

ROBIN HOOD AND MAID MARIAN LEAD.
The Pageant, which started the Fete, began with a blast of trumpets. Robin Hood and Maid Marian.

They and their followers led the pageant, followed by milkmaids with a real prize-winning Guernsey cow; the characters in the various plays; the May Pole, drawn by four sleek oxen, shepherds with

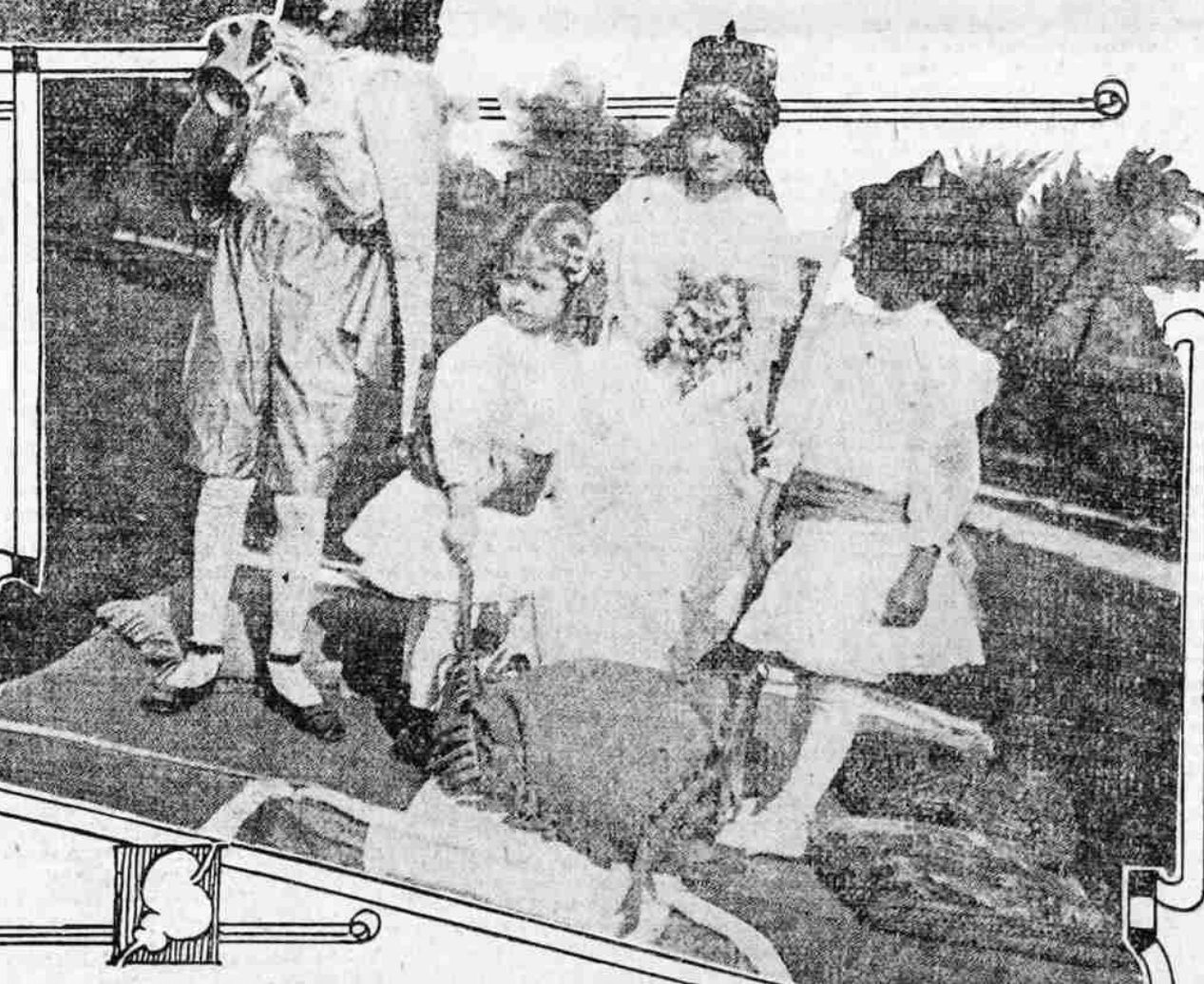
beautiful captive of his wars. Campaspe, a Theban maiden. She is also loved by Apelles, a painter, and returns his love.

Alexander is sure that he can make this conquest as well as those of war. He realizes the bitterness of death, but the play ends happily.

More than fifty persons took part in the play, which is featured by several beautiful Greek dances. These, to music as graceful and beautiful, never failed to bring ap-



A Girl's University Solves High Cost of Graduation by Having all Senior Girls Dress in Home Made Gowns.



plause from the audiences. **HELEN TAFT TAKES PART OF KING RICHARD.**

Robin Hood, in which Miss Helen Taft appeared as King Richard of the Lion Heart, is a play dear to Bryn Mawr, as it has been given at each of the May Days. Miss Elizabeth Daly, a niece of Augustin Daly, wrote it in 1900 for the first May Day Fete.

The scene setting of Robin Hood seemed like the dense wood Miss Daly wanted to make it. In his play, Alan-a-Dale, the minstrel, gains his bride, Fair Ellen through the aid of Robin Hood. Also through Robin Hood Maid Marian is united with her aged father, Fitzwater. Then King Richard, disguised as a pilgrim, enters the wood, is robbed by Robin Hood, who entertains him with feats of archery.

King Richard (Miss Taft) suddenly discovers herself to the Merry Men, forgives Robin Hood and all his band of outlaws, and the play ends with an ancient song, led by the minstrel, Alan-a-Dale.

The performance of scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with "The Tragical Interlude of Pyramus and Thisbe" was one of the best acted in the fete. A little natural theater called the "First Hollow" was its setting. The lines of Shakespeare were faithfully adhered to.

In the "Play of St. George" and "The Revesby Sword Play" the

spectators witnessed several very ancient May day "shows." Every one liked the St. George play because of its jingles.

At the beginning a pompous King Alfred spoke up:

"I am King Alfred;

"This here is my wife."

The Dragon, played by Miss Julia Denning, was slain by St. George (Miss Constance Hall), who merely jabbed him with her sword, whereupon he howled terribly. The "Revesby Sword Play" is an old English rustic play in which Cleley, the village belle, was beloved by man and won by the fool, Cleley was Miss Thalia Smith and the Fool was played by Miss Angela Darkow.

"The Old Wives' Tale," presented in another "hollow," was a fairy story that enchanted three huge audiences of grownups. Enchantment was its theme, for three times during the afternoon. Sacrapant, a grisly sorcerer, enchanted beautiful maidens. Three times; also Eumenides, a poor, kind-hearted wandering knight, rescued the maidens by aid of a ghost, slew the sorcerer, and drove away his furies.

Several other shows with many participants, were "The Chimney Sweeps" and "Milkmaids" dances.

One thousand dollars of the pro-

ceeds of the May Day will go to the Wellesley College Five Loss Fund, the balance going to the Bryn Mawr College Endowment Fund.

Something Went Wrong.

The Instalment Heights Amateurs Dramatic Society recently introduced a striking bit of realism into their skilful rendering of "Engaged and Jilted."

It will be remembered that when the heroine faints and falls gracefully upon the stage, the awkward comic servant is required to seize a large pitcher from a small table standing near R. 2 E. and hold it over the prostrate lady, exclaiming, as she does so: "Oh, heavens! There's not a drop of water in the place!"

This is a highly humorous effect, in its way; but its side-splitting features were greatly intensified the other evening when, through some oversight, the pitcher was half-full of water when it was placed on the table.

The proper cue was given. The comic servant grabbed the pitcher and fairly deluged the unexpected heroine. She spluttered and gasped for breath, and waved her arms wildly in the air, and utterly forgot to wait for the hero's arrival before recovering from her "faint."

"Geek! kin she swim!" called out a small boy in the gallery. And then the applause was simply deaf-